Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 03585 042130Z ACTION STR-07

O 042105Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7373 USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, MTN, BR

SUBJ: GATT ARTICLE XXVIII NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRAZIL

MISSION ALSO FOR USMTN

REF STATE 113212

1. ECONOFFS DELIVERED INFORMATION REFTEL TO SENIOR OFFICIAL IN MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE CABINET (WHO PROMISED TO PASS THE MESSAGE IMMDIATELY TO CALMON DE SA) AND TO FOREIGN MINISTRY'S TRADE POLICY DIVISION CHIEF BOTAFOGO ON MAY 4. FINATT EXPECTS TO PASS MESSAGE TO HIGH FINANCE OFFICIAL FOR SIMONSEN ON MAY 5.

2. IN ECONOFFS' MEETING WITH BOTAFOGO FIRST SECRETARY MEDEIROS WAS ALSO PRESENT. MEDEIROS QUICKLY STATED THAT THE GOB WOULD CONSIDER AS "ILLEGAL" ANY ATTEMPT TO WITHDRAW CONCESSIONS SINCE GATT WAIVER WAS GRANTED TO BRAZIL UP TO MARCH 31, 1979. MEDEIRSO ALSO SAID HE DID NOT RECALL ANY CASE WHERE A DEVELOPED COUNTRY HAD EVER WITHDRAWN CONCESSIONS TO AN LDC. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3. BOTAFOGO SPOKE CALMLY AND AT LENGTH ON THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH BRAZIL WAS FACING IN PREPARING ITSELF FOR ARTICLE XXVIII NEGOTIATIONS. HE REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THE CONTACT WITH THE US ON THIS SUBJECT AND SAID THAT AT THE END OF MARCH WHEN THE US HAD STATED ITS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE EXTENSION OF BRAZIL'S WAIVER TO MARCH 31, 1979, NO MENTION HAD BEEN MADE OF RETALIATION.

HE SAID THAT IT WAS "PSYCHOLOGICALLY WRONG" TO SUGGEST RETALIATION ON THE EVE OF THE SUB-GROUP ON TRADE TALKS.

ECONOFF REPLIED THAT THIS INDICATION OF US CONCERN WAS A REFLECTION OF REAL PRESSURES AND THE NEED TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS ON THESE ISSUES. BOTAFOGO REPEATED HIS EARLIER POSITION THAT IT WAS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR BRAZIL TO DELINK ARTICLE XXVIII NEGOTATIONS FROM THE MTN SINCE SO MANY OF THE SAME ITEMS WERE COVERED IN BOTH AND THE SAME MINISTERIES WERE INVOLVED IN BRASILIA. ECONOFF REMINDED BOTAFOGO THAT IT WAS PRIMARILY FOR DELINKING PURPOSES THAT THE US HAD REQUESTED ARTICLE XXVIII NEGOTIATIONS AS A SEPARATE SUBJECT ON THE AGENDA FOR THE SUB-GROUP TALKS.

4. BOTAFOGO STATED IN A HYPOTHETICAL MANNER, IF THE US SHOULD DECIDE TO WITHDRAW CONCESSIONS THAT BRAZIL WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER WHETHER IT WAS BETTER TO HAVE THIS RETALIATION THAN YIELD CONCESSIONS. BOTAFOGO ALSO OBSERVED THAT SERIOUS TALK OF RETALIATION WAS, OF COURSE, A HIGHLY POLITICAL MATTER. WHILE CONCERNED THAT THE US POSITION ON ARTICLE XXVIII NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE SUB-GROUP MEETING, HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT NEIGHTER SIDE WOULD ALLOW THIS SUBJECT TO OVERWHELM THE DISCUSSION. JOHNSON

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